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SOURCE 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (1953 Economic Yearbook).

#### LIVING STANDARDS IN CHINA, 1949 - 1952

[Comment: This report summarizes an article entitled "To Create a Better Living for the People of China," by Yu An published in the pro-Communist 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao. The report gives percentages and in some cases figures, on purchasing power in rural and urban areas, enrollment in schools, commodity sales and purchases, and workers' earnings.]

#### A. Improvement of Living Standards

Living standards in China have improved as evidenced by the increase in the purchasing power of the masses. The people's purchasing power for 1951 showed a 25 percent increase over 1950. For 1952, a greater increase is expected. This is based on the fact that the average worker's earnings for 1952 were 60-100 percent greater than for 1949; earnings for workers in state-operated factories and mines were 75 percent greater; the average worker's earnings in the Northeast were 61.2 percent greater; and cadres' earnings were 10 to 30 percent greater.

One of the reasons for this improvement in living standards has been the development of educational work. As compared with the greatest enrollment year during the KMT regime; 1952 enrollments in the various schools under the new regime showed the following increases: higher educational schools, 218,000 or an increase of 69.9 percent; middle schools, 3.07 million, or an increase of 63.9 percent; and primary schools, 49 million, or an increase of 107 percent. Living expenses of students enrolled in all higher educational schools, technical schools are provided by the government. Many middle school students were given scholarships.

There are 8,900 part-time schools for workers in China, and the enrollment totaled 3.02 million. Approximately 26,400 workers are learning skilled work at present.

By the end of 1951, 90.2 percent of the hsiens had established health centers. Three times as many people went to the movies during the first half of 1952 as compared with the same period in 1950.

- 1 -

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B. Survey of Purchasing Power in Various Areas

## 1. Northeast Administrative Area

Purchasing power for 1952 was 3.95 times as great as 1949. During the first half of 1952, the total sales of state-operated enterprises were 157.8 percent greater than during the same period in 1951, and 248.5 percent greater than for the same period in 1950.

## 2. Northwest Administrative Area

The increase in the people's purchasing power is revealed by the following sales figures: The amount of cotton cloth sold in 1951 was 50 percent greater than in 1950; and in 1952, 100 percent greater than in 1951. The amount of miscellaneous products sold in 1951 was 320 percent more than in 1950, and in 1952, 80 percent more than in 1951.

## 3. Southwest Administrative Area

Using 1950 as the base year, rural and urban purchasing power for 1952 increased 65.33 percent and 63.58 percent, respectively. Using 1950 as the base year, cotton cloth sales in 1952 increased 6.2 times; rice, 10 times; salt, 2.6 times; and vegetable oil, 1.07 times.

## 4. North China Administrative Area

Purchasing power for 1952 was 16.3 percent greater than for 1951. The average farmer's purchasing power in 1951 was 52 percent greater than in 1950; and for 1952, 12 percent greater than in 1951. Farmers purchased 4.8 million bolts of cloth in 1949 and 13 million bolts in 1952.

Total purchases in Honan for 1952 amounted to 12.4 trillion yuan, or 12.2 percent greater than in 1951. Shansi purchasing power in 1952 was 16.62 percent greater than in 1951. Using 1950 as the base year, P'ing-yuan purchasing power in 1951 was 134 percent; and in 1952, 189.33 percent.

## 5. East China Administrative Area

Rural purchasing power for 1952 was 21 percent greater than for 1951. Rural purchasing power per capita for 1950 was 150,000 yuan; for 1951, 200,000 yuan; and for 1952, 270,000 yuan. Urban purchasing power for 1952 was 70 percent greater than for 1950. North Kiangsu rural and urban purchasing power for 1952 was 30 percent greater than in 1951.

Chekiang workers' purchasing power for 1952 was 10 percent greater than for 1951; and farmers' purchasing power, 32 percent. Fukien purchasing power for 1952 was 25 percent greater than in 1951. Anhwei rural purchasing power for 1951 was 28 percent greater than in 1950; and for 1952, 20 percent greater than in 1951.

## 6. Central-South China Administrative Area

The workers' earnings for 1950 were 6 percent greater than in 1949; and for 1951, 13.25 percent greater than in 1950. Hunan cotton cloth purchases for 1950 were 21 percent greater than the year prior to World War II; for 1951, 72 percent; and for 1952, 167 percent. Salt purchases for 1950 were 64 percent greater than the year prior to World War II; for 1951, 47 percent; and for 1952, 83 percent. Using 1951 as the base year, the 1952 cotton sales in Hupeh showed an increase of 147 percent; cotton thread, 198 percent; and salt, 142 percent.

- 2 -

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Kiangsi purchasing power for 1950 was 25 percent greater than in 1949; for 1951, 27.32 percent greater than in 1950; and for 1952, 35.45 percent greater than in 1951. The 1952 purchasing power was valued at 2.67 trillion yuan. The sale of cotton cloth in 1952 was 27.5 percent greater than in 1951; cigarettes, 36 percent; cotton, 57 percent; sugar, 27.5 percent; and kerosene, 100 percent.

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- 3 -

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